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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,176	11/20/2003	Chun-Che Chiu	Q1201	9354
34335	7590	01/07/2005	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF DAVID PAI 1001 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 3200 SEATTLE, WA 98154			NGUYEN, NINH H	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3745		
DATE MAILED: 01/07/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,176	CHIU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ninh H. Nguyen	3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 12-20 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 8-11 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hung (6,805,536).

Hung discloses a side-blown fan (Figs. 1-3) comprising a case 12 having a side-outlet, a first axial inlet, and a first protrusion 23 extending from an edge of the first axial inlet toward the center of the first axial inlet; and a blade member 16 embedded inside the case, wherein a high air pressure region inherently exists between the blade member and the case in a radial direction, and the first protrusion covers the high air pressure region and a part of the blade member (Fig. 1);

wherein the fan inherently comprises a flow field region between the case and the blade member;

wherein the high air pressure region is inherently a region extending from the narrowest section of the flow field region to a section at a prescribed distance along the direction of the operational air stream inside the case (Fig. 3);

wherein the case is constituted of a plurality of case elements 23 and 12; and
wherein the plurality of case elements are jointed by fastening (Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung in view of Yamaguchi et al. (6,328,529).

Hung discloses all the limitations except the plurality of case elements are not jointed by engaging hooking structures and corresponding eye structures formed on the case element, respectively as claimed.

Yamaguchi teaches a blower (Figs. 1-4) comprising an impeller 3 disposed inside a casing wherein the casing comprises a plurality of elements 4, 1 jointed by engaging hooking structures 6 and corresponding eye structures 5 formed on the case elements to reduce the number of parts and labor when assembling the casing (col. 5, lines 32-39).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to make the fan of Hung with the element 23 and 12 jointed together by engaging hooking structures and corresponding eye structures on the case elements for the purpose of providing a casing with a reduced number of parts and less labor cost as taught by Yamaguchi.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 12-20, due to the limitations of a plurality of inlets with each inlet having a corresponding protrusion, are allowed.
6. Claims 9-11, due to a second axial inlet and a second protrusion, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Claim 8, due to the limitation of the protrusion being a chord edge or a bump of the first axial inlet, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of 1 patent.

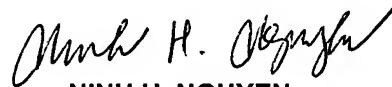
Huang (6,540,476) is cited to show a side flowing fan having inlet protrusions.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Ninh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4823. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look, can be reached at (571) 272-4820. The fax number for this group is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> or contact the Electronic Business center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



NINH H. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Nhn
January 3, 2005